

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1341
ANSWERED ON:02.03.2001
STRENGTHENING OF PDS
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Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have taken several steps to strengthen the Public Distribution System in the rural areas of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government propose to take other steps ensuring qualitative supply of wheat and rice to the people through the public distribution system; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI CHAUHAN)

- (a) and (b) Government has undertaken a series of measures to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) throughout the country including rural areas.
- (i) Allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been doubled from 10 kg. to 20 kg. per family per month at 50% of economic cost and allocation for APL families has been maintained at economic cost w.e.f. 1.4.2000.
- (ii) Additional requirement of foodgrains for any State, is met by the Government at economic cost.
- (iii) Foodgrains under TPDS are allotted to States/UTs for families living below poverty line (BPL) based on population projection of Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of 1995.
- iv) Financial assistance under the Centrally sponsored scheme 'Construction of godowns' is provided to the States/Union Territories for construction of godowns upto 2000 Metric tonnes capacity to ensure smooth flow of PDS commodities especially in rural, remote, hilly and tribal areas. Financial assistance has also been provided under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme 'Purchase of vans' especially in remote and far flung areas for use as mobile fair price shops and also as carrier of foodgrains to the FPS for effective door delivery.
- (v) In order to efficiently reach the essential commodities under PDS to the consumers in a transparent and accountable manner a Model Citizens' Charter for Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been drawn up and circulated to States/UTs for adoption.
- (vi) Based on the belief that truly democratic institutions do better safeguard food security concerns of all than the State bureaucracy, the Government has also advised the State Governments to more substantially involve the Gram Panchayats in supervision and monitoring of PDS especially at FPS level as a measure of social audit.
- (vii) Antyodaya Anna Yojana has been launched on 25.12.2000 to make TPDS more targeted to the poorest of the 5% of the population who may be called 'hungry'.
- (c) & (d) : The Government has taken following steps to improve the quality of foodgrains distributed through PDS :
 - (i) The Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of foodgrains (wheat and rice) free from insect infestation and conforming to PFA norms are issued to the State Governments with their full satisfaction regarding quality and quantity.
 - (ii) Ample opportunities are provided to the officials of the State Governments to inspect the stocks prior to issue from FCI godowns. The instructions have been issued by this Department to all the State Governments that the officer not below the rank of inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before issue in FCI godowns.
 - (iii) The samples are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Government and FCI from the stocks to be issued under TPDS to be displayed at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.
 - (iv) The officers of Government of India conduct surprise checks of FPSs to oversee the quality of foodgrains being distributed through

